

Sunday Hunting Testimony

H.B. No. 6034 (RAISED) AN ACT AUTHORIZING BOW AND ARROW HUNTING ON SUNDAY UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

The Conservation Advisory Council is in **support** of this bill.

I am speaking on behalf of the Conservation Advisory Council. The Council consists of 25 members, who represent approximately 35,000 sportsmen throughout the state. These members belong to groups such as United Bowhunters of CT, CT Farm Bureau, CT Audubon Society, Bristol Fish and Game, Rockville Fish and Game, CT Sportsman Alliance, Northwest CT Sportsmen, New London /Windham County League of Sportsmen Club, Fairfield County League of Sportsmen, CT Fish Advisory Council, CT Falconers Association, American Hunting Dog Club, CT Trappers Association, CT Woodcock Council, to name a few. As you can see, these groups have different interests at heart, but believe that conservation and management is important to the State's ecology.

This bill is supported by the DEEP as a deer management technique. The DEEP Commissioner being designated as the manager will allow for adjustments to be made throughout the state after the DEEP biologists give deer population survey results to him. Many areas in the State, as seen by the colored map, exceed the DEEP ecological carrying capacity of deer, which is 20 deer per square mile. That's 20 deer for every 640 acres. That's the goal DEEP biologists are trying to achieve. This will allow for a healthy herd, limit predators, and keep our State green regenerating growth. We believe bow hunting on Sundays on private land will help control the deer population.

DEEP have studied deer populations in our state for years and how deer can change the ecology of an area. Some of these areas are very important to our own survival. Water supply regions around the state, many of which allow hunting, attract large numbers of deer and need hunting to keep the ecological damage in check. This bill will also benefit small businesses around the State from sales by sporting goods stores, restaurants, motels, gas stations and others, as we expect not only resident bow hunters to be afield but also an increase in non-resident hunters, which will bring revenue to the State. How much revenue? We won't know until we give sportsmen the opportunity.

This bill will impact only those who wish to be impacted. This bill will **ONLY** allow bow hunting on **PRIVATE** land with written permission given to the hunter in zones designated by the DEEP Commissioner. The landowner can still refuse hunting on Sunday. This bill does not affect State Land use or administer more tags for deer harvest. This bill only provides more opportunity, 16 Sundays to be exact, for hunters to be successful.

This bill has been passed by this committee 3 years in a row. I ask that you pass this bill again, move it from this committee to the legislative floor, and request the President Pro Tem and Speaker to call the bill with no amendments. Let the people of the State decide if this bill is right for the State.